Secondly, we have already said that if the funds are likely to come from international organisations for rehabilitation work, we will certainly look into it. And even for temporary assistance and relief, the countries, the individuals and the organisations who express their willingness to contribute and help, we are grateful to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question regarding Tsunami has been covered. Now, Question No. 205, Shrimati Savita Sharda.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, something very important is missing. Sir, you just give me half a minute. Sir, it is about the missing persons. It's a very large number. Sir, we have 5,823. How long will they be listed as missing persons and what kind of relief and support will be given to those families? It is almost three months. That is what we want to know.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is a very grey area and we would like to be ve'ry careful. If there are persons who are missing or not likely to come, we will certainly give all the help which can be given. But we would also be careful in accepting the numbers given by others.

विकलांग सैनिकों को नि:शुल्क चिकित्सा

*205.**श्री मती सविता शारदा**: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या युद्व में विकलांग हुए सैनिक को सैन्य अस्पतालों में मिल रही नि:शुल्क चिकित्सा देना बदं कर दिया गया है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ऐसे हजारों सैनिकों को समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है:,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है:, और

(ग) क्या सरकार ऐसे सैनिकों को दी जाने वाली नि:शुल्क चिकित्सा को जारी करने पर पुन: विचार करेगी जो युद्व में विकलांग हो गये हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी): (क) जी,नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) उपर्युक्त (क)को देखते हुए, प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Free medical treatment to handicapped armymen

†*205. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether free treatment being provided in army hospitals to the armymen who have been rendered handicapped in the war, has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

discontinued as a result of which thousands of such army personnel are facing problems;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider restoring free treatment facilities to such army personnel who have been rendered handicapped in war?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of <a) above, question do not arise.

श्री मती सविता शारदा: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उससे मैं पूर्ण रूप से असंतुष्ट हूं ।विश्वसनीय सूत्रों से जानकारी प्राप्त हुई है कि युद्व में विकलांग हुए सैनिकों को दी जा रही नि:शुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधा वापस ले ली गई हैं, जबकि माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से यह प्रतीत होता है कि ऐसा नहीं किया गया है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस बारे में स्थिति को स्पष्ट करने के लिए प्रार्थना करती हूं और इसी का दूसरा पार्ट यह है कि कई सैनिकों एंव पूर्व-सैनिकों...

श्री सभापति: पहले पार्ट का जवाब आने दीजिए ।

श्री मती सविता शारदा: सर, मेरा सप्लीमेंटरी कम हो जाएगा । छोटा सा ही प्रश्न है और इसी में आता हैं ।

श्री सभापति: फिर आप दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी तो नहीं करेंगी ?

श्री मती सविता शारदा: सर, करूंगी, लेकिन यह उसी का दूसरा पार्ट है । कई सैनिकों एंव पूर्व-सैंनिकों की ओर से गुहार लगाने के पश्चात भी कोई सुनवाई नहीं हुई हैं । मामले को गंभीर मानते हुए उच्च न्यायालय ने रक्षा मंत्रालय एंव तीनों प्रमुखों से क्या कोई जवाब मांगा है ? मंत्री महोदय इस स्थिति का भी ब्यौरेवार उत्तर दें ।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of the treatment of disabled soldiers is concerned, as I have mentioned, para 296 of the Regulations for Medical Services has made it quite clear that they are entitled to treatment in all the hospitals run by the military. Even if there are not adequate arrangements and some arrangements are required, they are also being provided. Therefore, the facility which is there already is continuing. The question was whether that facility has been withdrawn or discontinued. It has not been discontinued; it is being carried on. In respect of the other question where the persons are going to the court,

after all, the writ jurisdiction is there and the writ jurisdiction is available to the civilians and the military. But in regard to the removal of the issues related to promotion and others, we are considering very seriously and we are going to appoint a tribunal which will take care of this problem.

श्री मती सविता शारदा: सर,मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न हैं ।

श्री सभापति: मैंने आपको पहले ही कह दिया था ।

श्री मती सविता शारदा : सर, वह पार्ट "ए" और पार्ट"बी" था ।

श्री सभापति: आपका प्रश्न हो गया, इसके बाद कोई जवाब नहीं है । जवाब आपका पूरा डीटेल में मिल गया है ।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सर, दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी तो दीजिए ।

श्री सभापति: डीटेल में आपका जवाब मिल गया है ।

Solar hydrogen energy programme

*206. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a comprehensive solar hydrogen energy programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress so far made in this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing a research, development and demonstration programme on hydrogen energy. Solar energy can be used to produce hydrogen, but the process is not yet commercially viable. In view of the growing importance of hydrogen as an alternate fuel for the future, this Ministry has set up a National Hydrogen Energy Board which has high level representation from the Government, industry, academia,